## **Recreation Department**



Playground Kick Off

Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of activities throughout the year. A sampling of just a few of our programs shown above. Hopefully you enjoy viewing them with as much pleasure as the children and adults seem to be having! *(staff photos)* 

There were two wonderful additions to Berlin Recreation's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter "Eggstravaganza." First was the generous help from Hope for NH Recovery with the extensive decorating process. Their volunteer hours prepping the gym to create the Spring Easter look was much needed and greatly appreciated!



Children hunting for treats at Eggstravaganza

Secondly, Berlin Recreation applied for and was awarded a \$500.00 CLiF (Children's Literacy Foundation) Revive Your Literacy Grant. This grant enabled us to purchase 237 books from First Book Marketplace to distribute to all the attendees. Heartwarming comments included "My son has his first wiggly tooth and was able to receive a Pete the Cat book on a lost tooth," and "My niece fell asleep holding her book, The Dragon in the Sock Drawer."

Although it is always fun to talk up the successful sports and special events Berlin Recreation offers, on a slightly more serious note, Recreation staff participated in a couple of enlightening courses this fiscal year.

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA provided guidance in assisting youth who may be in the early stages of a crisis. Since we have frequent contact with the area youth,

the advice given will better prepare us to offer information on available services as well as listening with a non-judgmental ear.



Children choosing CLIF books

Another course Recreation staff participated in, along with members of law enforcement, was MOAB (Management of Aggressive Behavior) training. **Professionals** demonstrated ways to diffuse high intensity situations, talked of best practices to reduce harm to oneself, and we learned how to be creating welcoming proactive in a environment with the goal of avoiding finding ourselves in the middle of a difficult encounter.

Berlin Recreation strives to have a productive relationship with area residents, young and old alike. We believe we must remain receptive to acquiring new skills to better serve the diverse members of the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Letarte
Recreation Program Director